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QUARTERLY PAPER.

AMERICAN BAPTIST

HOME MISSION SOCIETY.

OUR GOSPEL CAME NOT UNTO YOU IN WORD ONLY, BUT ALSO IN POWER, AND IN THE HOLY GHOST, AND IN MUCH ASSURANCE—SO THAT YE WERE ENSAMPLES TO ALL THAT BELIEVE. FOR FROM YOU SOUNDED OUT THE WORD OF THE LORD, NOT ONLY IN MACEDONIA AND ACHAIA, BUT ALSO IN EVERY PLACE YOUR FAITH TO GOD-WARD IS SPREAD ABROAD.

PAUL to the Thessalonians.

HEREIN IS MY FATHER GLORIFIED, THAT YE BEAR MUCH FRUIT, SO SHALL YE BE MY DISCIPLES.—JESUS CHRIST.

No. IV. Mission Rooms, 118 Nassau-street, New-York. November, 1838.

THE IMPORTANCE OF HOME MISSIONS.

The following judicious remarks are taken from the official report of Rev. Wm. B. Johnson, D. D., of South Carolina, to his constituents, on his return from the anniversaries in this city the last spring. Though the members of our Executive Committee are deeply engaged in all the various objects of benevolence, they agree, perhaps without a dissenting voice, in giving Home Missions the same prominence as in the article below.

"The anniversary of the American Baptist Home Mission Society succeeded that of the Convention. The report of the Executive Committee of this society disclosed a wide field of Home operations, in which the labourers have been greatly blessed, especially in the valley of the Mississippi. But the funds of this body are also exhausted, and its executive committee anxiously turn to their brethren throughout the length and breadth of the land, asking what they shall do. My brethren, if there be one of our general efforts more important than another, the effort of the Home Mission Society is that effort. The Foreign Mission scheme seems to be invested with more splendor, because of the remoteness of the region in which it operates, and because too, of the extraordinary circumstances of suffering and success which attended the first missionaries there. But if the Home Mission have less of splendor about it to attract our attention, may there not be considerations of duty more impressive, in relation to it, and matters of personal interest more binding upon us, to engage our prayers and our beneficence for its advancement. Those who are within the scope of home operations are our fathers and mothers, our brothers and sisters, our sons and our daughters, our friends and our neighbours, our immediate kindred in all its endearing relations.

"Especially is this true of those who remove to the Valley of the Mississippi. Their claims are therefore of a peculiar character. If those who will not provide for their own household, in a temporal point of view, have denied the faith and are worse than infidels, what shall be said of those who will not provide for such in a spiritual point of view. Should we not feel for the peculiar temptations of the settlers of new lands? Forsaking the land of their fathers, they bid adieu to the institutions of morality and religion, which are the stay of that land.

"Without these props, and all their energies put into requisition for making money, the danger to their immortal interests is imminent and alarming. How important is it then, that the older states should furnish the men and the means to transplant among these adventurers the institutions of morality and religion, that a decided moral and religious cast may be given to the rising energies of their continually swelling numbers. The importance of such a cast, in a political point of view, is worthy of serious consideration, since in a few years it is not improbable that the preponderance

in the councils of the nation will be found in the delegation from the west. And finally, let it be considered that when that vast region shall be brought under the influence of the gospel, its wealth will flow into the Foreign Mission fund, by means of which the Convention, the twin sister of the American Baptist Home Mission Society, will be the more successfully able to carry on her mighty operations for the distant heathen."

IOWA TERRITORY—CHURCH CONSTITUTED—GRATIFYING TESTIMONY.

Since this distant portion of our country was constituted a separate territory, in July last, the tide of western emigration seems to have turned into it with unparalleled velocity. It is a most inviting country, especially for those who remove from the higher latitudes of the older states. The committee regard it a matter of unpeakable moment that the sheep of Christ's fold, who may scatter into this wilderness, should early be gathered into churches, and that the standard of the cross should be erected in every rising village and settlement. *Three* missionaries they have already in that field, or on their way there, and a *fourth* will divide his time between this territory and Missouri.

The following interesting extracts are from a letter of Brother Alexander Evans, under date of 4th inst. Burlington, I. T.

"In company with Brother Broadbuss, a young minister from St. Francisville, Mo. (also a missionary,) I constituted a church in a village called Rochester, at the Big Bend of the Des Moines river, consisting of thirteen members—all from New-Hampshire. They were constituted upon the declaration of faith of the New-Hampshire Baptist State Convention, 1st July.

"Having just returned from the Iowa river, I would just remark that there is a considerable prospect of a revival. The settlement is small, but many sinners wept bitterly in view of their sins.

"The Baptist cause in this Territory is still rising. *All the good done, at least in this part of the Territory, has been done through the Committee of the Home Mission Society.* Should you withdraw your aid, you would surely dash from our lips the cup of hope."

May the churches enable the Committee to increase their efforts a hundred fold!

VILLAGE PREACHING BLESSED.

"You will recollect," says J. L. Richmond, missionary at Conneaut, a beautiful and thriving village on Lake Erie, in Ohio, "that when I came here one year ago the last April, there were but one Baptist brother and two sisters in this village,—the church, numbering about *forty-five* communicants, being scattered from one to four miles out of the village. Now, blessed be God, our number is eighty-five, having been almost doubled during the last year! The Lord has graciously revived his work in the village, and I have had the pleasure of baptizing seventeen, (several of whom were Pedobaptists,) and of receiving twenty-five more by letter, experience, and restoration. We expect more to come forward the next Sabbath. Indeed, scarcely a covenant meeting has passed for months, without additions. We ascribe all the glory to God, and can say, 'it is his work, and marvellous in our eyes.' We are very much strengthened and encouraged. Our house of worship (the chapel of the Academy) is now too small for us, and we think it time for us to arise, and build a house for our God."

The Baptist church at Kingsville, seven miles from Conneaut, have received forty by baptism; and the church at Springfield, five miles distant, have received above thirty in the same way. It is a matter of the highest importance that a religious influence should be secured in all our villages. Each village is to its surrounding country what the great metropolis is to the whole country, the seat of moral influences good or bad—the *heart* of the moral system. There can be but little health in the body, without health at the heart. Such is the comparative importance of purifying our cities and villages.

A HIGH PLACE OF INFIDELITY ENTERED.

"At present I am engaged," says Brother E. Crane, "to preach at Shalersville, a very pleasant village [in Portage county, northern part of Ohio.] There is no Baptist church here, but there are several very pious and intelligent Baptist professors. Shalersville is known in this region as the head quarters of infidelity. Paine's birth-day was celebrated in this place the last year. I now preach in the same house where their leaders delivered their harangues. It is a large building, erected for town purposes. Hitherto my congregations have been large and attentive. Some of the citizens are trying to have me labour with them through the approaching winter."

May the hands and feet, and neck of Dagon here be broken before the ark of the Covenant of the God of Israel!

WESTERN VIRGINIA.

The regions among and over the mountains in Virginia are said to exhibit an affecting destitution of religious culture. The Board of the General Association of that state have partially explored that field, and are beginning to bend a portion of their energies accordingly. In some parts, it is said that men in middle life have never had an opportunity to hear a Baptist preacher. It should not be so in the *Old Dominion*. An extract from the report of our missionary, D. Holder, will be read with interest.

"Since that time (27th June) I have been almost constantly travelling and preaching. I have supplied four churches in Lewis county, and once a month have preached in the lower edge of Brackston. I have travelled one thousand and ninety-one miles; preached forty-eight sermons; constituted four monthly concerts for prayer; visited the sick; baptized three willing subjects, and received one more for that ordinance.

"One of the above churches was entirely destitute of any regular preaching. They were like sheep scattered over the mountains without a shepherd. A dear old coloured brother (one of the precious of the earth) at the information of my arrival, exclaimed, "Glory to God for seeing and hearing a Baptist preacher once more!" At that place my labour has not been in vain. I had spent but few Sabbaths there, before the congregations became crowded, solemn and attentive. There is a pleasing prospect before us."

A SCENE IN MISSOURI.

Some three or four years ago, two brethren, one of them a Bible agent, and formerly from western New-York, the other a native of that country, had arranged the preliminaries for holding a series of meetings with a small church in one of the new settlements of Missouri. The place being distant, and they remote from each other, it was agreed that they should meet at Potosi, and thence proceed in company. At the time appointed, D. the agent, was at the place, but found not his anticipated fellow-labourer. One anxious hour passed away, and another still more anxious followed, when he was about to give up all hope, and return. For to proceed alone, he could not. It was midsummer, and his physical abilities, unaided, were inadequate to sustain the continuous exercises of the appointment. Besides, the road, to which he was a stranger, was nothing but a foot-path, now leading across the grassy prairie, and now through the deep run or forest, and indicated by the spotted trees, and often intersected by other paths. At this juncture, T. made his appearance. "I can't go," said he, and the tears started full in his eyes, "three days have I spent trying to procure some kind of provision to leave with my family, but cannot get even a peck of meal. My wife said 'Go, the Lord will provide.' But when I could not consent to leave her with our little ones utterly destitute, she urged me to go and explain to you the reason of our disappointment; and for that purpose, am I come." "Stay, my brother," said D. "and I will see what can be done for you." He soon found a brother who relieved their anxiety, by the promise to send an immediate supply; and on they proceeded to meet their engagements. For six weeks they continued to travel from place to place, and to preach the everlasting gospel in the wilds of Missouri. Much good seed of the kingdom was sown, and some visible fruit they were permitted even then to see.

For the last two or three years, this servant of Jesus has received a small pittance from the Home Mission Society. And who would not rejoice to contribute to the necessities of such a family; to give not only a few crumbs, but divide the loaf with that wife and mother, who in the face of destitution and threatening hunger, had the piety and christian magnanimity to say to her husband, "Go on your Master's business; leave me alone; go, preach the blessed gospel to the perishing here in the wilderness." And can the Lord forget to reward the cup of cold water even, bestowed on a disciple in such circumstances! Many a reward of this kind will doubtless be conferred by the "righteous Judge" upon those who have made this society their almsman in *this* day.

PREACHING BY PROXY.

A member of the church in Catskill, in this state, has given his voluntary pledge to this society for one hundred dollars per annum, payable in quarterly instalments, for the support of one of its missionaries—the society giving to many no more than that sum. This brother, as we have been informed, once indulged serious thoughts of devoting himself to the ministry, but providence placing him in other circumstances, he desires, so far as practicable, to compensate for personal services, by appropriating so much from the avails of his labour as will keep another in the gospel field.

A gentleman in Buffalo has just sent us his name and pledge, accompanied with the first instalment, for the same purpose.

Are there not many brethren and many sisters in the land who have it in their power to present such offerings? And would they not be a sacrifice of sweet-smelling savour, acceptable unto God?

Should one brother be unable to bear so much expense alone, let him join with a second, or third, or with many, that is, form a society, and unitedly accomplish so desirable an end.

We do not mention the above as something altogether new in the history of our society. We have from time to time been cheered by a few such worthy examples, but we could wish the number greatly multiplied. Nor do we mean to imply that others have not given as great or greater annual subscriptions; this we most gratefully acknowledge.

P. S. Since writing the above, a young man, a member of the newly constituted church in Broome-street in this city, has furnished us with his name as one to support a missionary.

TENNESSEE.

The Rev. R. T. Daniel, missionary agent in the Western District, writes us:—"I have just returned from the southern counties in this district and Mississippi, and am happy to say that I have not witnessed such general revivals since I came to this state [from Va.] Hundreds have lately been converted to the christian faith. The excitement is almost general, and is rapidly increasing. All we want at present, under God, is warm-hearted and pious ministers."

"Levi L. Roberts, brother to the missionary in China, has baptized more than two hundred on the borders of Mississippi. He is doing much good, and an appointment is solicited for him as a missionary."

FLORIDA.

The Rev. O. T. Hammond writes us from Tallahassee, Sept. 4.—"I am now the only preacher in the city—the Presbyterian clergyman being ill, and the Episcopal lost in the Pulaski. I do the marrying and preaching—visit the sick, and bury the dead. I find it most too much for me in this warm climate, funerals almost every day in the region. Still we are in good health."

From a subsequent letter, we learn that there is a number of Baptists in Tallahassee who think of being constituted into a church. Our brethren having no meeting-house in town, as a matter of accommodation to all, our missionary has occupied the Presbyterian pulpit a part of the time.

DELAWARE.

We have received encouraging accounts from brethren Denison and Thompson, missionaries in this state. But the Baptist cause as a whole is lamentably low, owing doubtless to the peculiarity of their sentiments as christians. We regret to learn that in some places Baptist preachers and members have identified themselves with the opposition to the Temperance reform.

THE PEOPLE MUST BE INSTRUCTED.

The following very judicious and timely remarks are from the pen of a missionary in Marion county, Ill. There are many who seem to imagine that if men are only converted, little or nothing more needs to be done for them. But such is evidently a mistaken and unscriptural view of the subject. One great object of the ministry is to edify the church, which is the body of Christ. The edification of the church is perhaps as important a work as the conversion of sinners! And that preacher can hardly be considered a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, who cannot teach and instruct, as well as pray and exhort.

"We have great opposition to contend with. There are two or three anti-effort churches in this county—and so deep and inveterate is their enmity to the missionary proceedings, that I reckon nothing will ever change them; their enmity grows out of ignorance on that subject.

"There are a great many people, especially mothers, probably one-fourth of the mothers in this county, who cannot read the Bible and Testament. Of this cast, or nearly so, are many Baptist preachers in the west—some of them in this county; and most generally they, with their churches, have embraced the paralyzing doctrine of 'Parkerism.' It is not for the want of grace, but for the want of intelligence. They are, and ever will be inaccessible, except through the medium of knowledge. Therefore books, tracts, pamphlets, periodicals and newspapers are now, and ever will, as long as society is such as it is now, be a great means in blessing the people of our county; and this county is a miniature portrait for the west.

"It is true that there has been much done by missionary efforts for our country, and that too, often where the people are comparatively ignorant, owing to the great simplicity of the gospel of Christ. But my own observation on the nature of things is, that unless they, after conversion, can be brought under the influence of a ministry, at least tolerably informed, they in the general fall victims to some prostrating theory, 'Parkerism' for instance, and very often yield to some temptation, the use of liquor it may be, and do not wield that influence to advance the Redeemer's kingdom that they ought.

"There has been much done in our country too, by missionary men, against the cause of missions. Indiscretion in the missionary may do much to injure the cause. Vanity, pride, bigotry, or avarice are great stumbling blocks in the way of many, even christians; therefore we may expect the cause of missions to advance in proportion to the aptitude of the men and means employed, and the advancing intelligence of the people. There are fewer men qualified for missionaries in the west than half the Baptists in the east suppose. The evangelist can do much in our country in visiting from house to house. Itinerating fruits are almost always seen to be isolated, and not calculated to effect any thing further than to individuals or families. In co-operation with the evangelist and his companions, books, tracts, &c. the permanent impression must be made, if ever made in the west, by a settled, pious and intelligent ministry. There are villages, towns, and cities springing up everywhere around us; and from the very nature of things, so long as they are unoccupied, they, together with the country around them, will show us cold and indifferent churches, in whose affections the world will have the ascendancy, from whose bosom a strong and rising population will emanate to walk the downward road. Then, in common with others here who have seen and felt these things, I raise the Macedonian cry, "Come and help us."

*Extract of a Letter from a Foreign Missionary.**Siamese Brig ARTEL, from Siam, bound to Singapore, May 17th, 1838.*

DEAR BROTHER,—Your note of Aug. 17th, 1837, accompanied by the Annual Report of the Baptist Home Mission Society, have been received. The report was gratifying to me, as affording evidence that the departure of missionaries to the heathen does not by any means diminish the amount of effort made to extend and perpetuate the influence of christianity in my native land.

I love the cause of missions, wherever carried on, when they aim to make the name and character of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ known and loved through all the earth.—Any efforts directed to this object, whatever designation they may pass under, are pleasing to Him whom it should be the great object of all to please, and must be gratifying to all who sincerely pray—"Thy kingdom come; thy will be done."

With kind regards, though in much haste,

Yours truly,

To Rev. L. CRAWFORD.

J. T. JONES.

SICKNESS IN THE WEST.

The past season has been memorable in most parts of the west for its sickness and mortality. The old inhabitant and the newly arrived have been alike unprepared. And what has added much to the aggravation of their distress, it has frequently been impossible for them to procure those comforts, and that medical skill, which is only to be found in older communities. In some places, the ordinary avocations of the people have been nearly suspended, and the well have been scarcely enough to attend to the sick, and bear the dead to their graves. Our missionaries have shared in this cup of affliction. Some have lost their companions—others their children, and some, as we shall see below, have lost their own lives. This state of things has been unfavourable to the missionary work. Congregations have been necessarily diminished. But it is to be hoped that all these things will serve to wean the people from the world, and turn their thoughts to that better country where the inhabitant shall no more say, I am sick.

DEATH OF MISSIONARIES.*Rock Spring, Illinois, Oct. 12, 1838.*

BR. CRAWFORD,—Though I am still too weak to leave my house, having been suffering under a severe stomach and bowel complaint for some days, I make an attempt once more to address you. Since my illness, two of our beloved and most useful missionaries have fallen in the field of labour.

Old Father Spencer died at Jacksonville about four weeks since, after a severe illness of but few days. He fell like a shock of corn fully ripe, in the full exercise of his reason, and triumph of faith, aged 70 years.

Brother Alexander Kidler died at Chillicothe, Peoria county, on the 7th of this month. He was attacked with the fever in July, partially recovered, got a relapse, and wore away gradually—perfectly rational, and perfectly resigned and happy. He has left a helpless widow and five young children, in the most destitute circumstances imaginable. Our Convention, I suppose, is now in session, but I am afraid little can be done.

As ever, yours,

J. M. PECK.

MORE THAN A THOUSAND BAPTIZED.

The Lord has greatly blessed the labours of the New-York State Convention the past year. Their missionaries have baptized one thousand and four believers in Jesus. Some five hundred more have been hopefully converted under their labours; some of whom have received the ordinance at other hands; some have united with other denominations, and others still tarry.

ENCOURAGING SUCCESS IN NEW-JERSEY.

At the late session of the New-Jersey Convention, it was stated in the Report of the Board, that since their organization eight years ago, the number of their churches had increased more than one third, and the number of their communicants had doubled, having risen from four thousand to eight thousand! What hath God wrought! The number baptized in their missionary fields the last year is two hundred and forty.

FROM MASSACHUSETTS.

The Rev. C. O. Kimball, Secretary of the Convention, writes us under recent date,—"The prospects in this state upon the subject of Home Missions are exceedingly good, so far as respects the onward progress of our plans and operations, but it remains hard to collect money." As God is now blessing all branches of labour, we hope the latter difficulty will soon be obviated.

ITEMS OF INTELLIGENCE.

BAPTISTS IN WISCONSIN.—A Convention was held on the fifth of October, at Milwaukee, for the purpose of organizing an association. Seven churches were represented. Two ministers only, the Rev. Messrs. Pierce and Griffing were present, and this we presume to have been the whole number then in the Territory! They formed a Missionary Board, consisting of laymen. This indicates a spirit which will cause them to live and prosper.

REPORTS OF BAPTIST CONVENTIONS.—We have received the printed Reports of the following Conventions for 1838, viz: Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, Ohio, Michigan, Virginia (General Association), Mississippi, Arkansas.

MINUTES OF ASSOCIATIONS.—We have received the following for 1838, viz: the York, Me.; the Boston, Mass.; the Warren, R. I.; the Hartford, the New-Haven, and the Fairfield county, Conn.; the Hudson River, the New-York, the Madison, the Union, and the Cayuga, N. Y.; the Warwick, N. J.; the Chowan, N. C.; the Grand River, O.; the Raisin River, Mich.; the Edwardsville, Ill.; the Franklin and the Central, Mo.

A large number of these Conventions and Associations, and others whose minutes have not yet reached us, but from which we have heard through the public journals, have passed strong and decided resolutions in favour of Home Missions, and call upon their members to put forth their efforts in proportion to the greatness of the cause. Such resolutions are cheering to us amidst the toils and anxieties necessarily attendant on conducting the affairs of so large an institution.

Life Directors, by the payment of one hundred dollars, since our last.

Thomas T. Devan, M. D. New-York city.

Rev. Daniel Eldridge, Utica, by his church, through the New-York Convention.

Stuart Mollan Taylor, New-York city, by John R. Ludlow, Esq.

Life Members, by the payment of thirty dollars.

Rev. J. G. Naylor, by Middle-street Baptist church in Portsmouth, N. H.

Rev. Benjamin Brizly, by Baptist church, Sommersworth, N. H.

Rev. Lewis Colby, by friends in South Berwick, Me.

Rev. Wm. F. Broadbuss, by ladies of M. Salem Church.

Mrs. Mary Ann Broadbuss, by her husband, the Rev. Wm. F. B. Va.

Mrs. Sophia Fishback, by her husband, Fauquier county, Va.

Mrs. Emily M. A. Brown, by her husband, do.

Mrs. Louisa Kimmar, Culpepper county, Va.

Mrs. Elizabeth Lowers, by her husband, Frederick county, Va.

Mrs. Nancy Moss, by her husband, Loudoun county, Va.

Mrs. Maria C. Kerfoot, by her husband, do.

Rev. James Cusick, (a Tuscarora chief,) by contribution at the session of the New-York Convention at Auburn.

J. G. Wasson, Esq. by the first Baptist church in Albany.